



*Latest News from Mark and Mary Bonham*

*May 18, 2024*

Dear Friend,

The second day after arriving home from my trip to Hungary I had a surprise trip to our local hospital! While meeting with the men in our Legacy Cohort I suddenly felt very woozy and disoriented. I started to sweat profusely and announced to the guys that something was wrong. They took me to the emergency room where I was admitted for observation. Twenty-four hours later, after lab tests, stress tests and imaging of my heart, they could find no reason to keep me. The conclusion was that I had exhaustion and was dehydrated. I could fill in the blanks as to why.



On the day I departed for Hungary I went to urgent care with nasty cold symptoms. They gave me four medications, one of which was an antibiotic, and sent me on my way. Throughout my time in Hungary my sleep was disrupted, but I pressed on with meetings and gatherings. I later learned that I had bronchitis. I missed a night's sleep on the way over and had an extralong day on the way back to the U.S.. And I did not drink enough water. So, that was a setup for what was to follow.

I am doing well now after taking extra time to rest and recover. I think I was going on the energy that I gained from the time with friends and being back in the land I've loved.

I was encouraged by time with friends. Sandor is now co-pastoring their church, while continuing to work a job and lead the Open Hearts ministry. We traveled together to Debrecen and visited the Reformed Seminary, shared our Loving Well Marriage course with several people in ministry and presented together at the Life from the Ruins conference. In each place interest was developed and new relationships begun. It is great to have a partner like Sandor, who is a lifelong friend and brother. His heart for the Lord has been a great blessing and encouragement to me.





Marton and Emese hosted a gathering of friends from our ministry in Hungary and we enjoyed sharing updates and praying for one another. God continues his work in the lives of the children of several couples we worked with. Seeds planted 40 years ago are bearing fruit in the next generation. It is good to remember that God sees things from the perspective of eternity, while we look for fruit the day after we plant. The children of the couples we ministered to are now young professionals starting families of their own,

making their mark in the medical, educational, business and technology world, not only in Hungary, but also in a number of other countries where they now live.

Everyday I met with people, individually or in groups. The international church we served in the first six years of its existence continues to minister to people from around the world who live in Budapest. It meets in the same high school where we started in 1991.

As I left Hungary, reflecting on all that I experienced and seeing the faithfulness of Sandor and others who continue to press on with the Lord, tears came to my eyes. I could look back and see friends who had become brothers and sisters, and I could look ahead and see the next generation – some where their parents had been when I met them and others who were taking their own steps of faith – and I could rejoice.

According to Isaiah 25, God is going to prepare a rich feast for all peoples. He will destroy the shroud that enfolds people and will swallow up death forever. He will wipe away the tears from our faces. These are tears of shame and pain. But I believe we will have tears of joy, as we acknowledge that *“Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”* Isaiah 25:9.

Thank you for your faithful partnership. You encourage Mary and me as we press on with the work God has given us, even as we slow our pace a bit to focus on needed recovery.

His and yours,

*Mark and Mary*

The Bonhams

“(My Shepherd) makes me lie down in green pastures...he restores my soul.” Psalm 23:2-3

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